



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**State Senator Gary Nodler Elected to Senate Leadership Position;
First Southwest Missouri Republican to Senate Leadership Post in Half-Century**

JEFFERSON CITY -- State Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, this week became the first Republican from southwest Missouri elected to a Senate majority leadership post in more than 50 years.

On Thursday, Nodler was elected by his fellow Republicans to serve as assistant majority floor leader of the Missouri Senate during the First Regular Session of the 93rd Missouri General Assembly that will convene in Jefferson City on Jan. 5.

"This is a great honor, second only to that of serving the citizens of the 32nd District as their state senator," Nodler said. "This position brings a new opportunity to give our citizens the effective and responsive government they deserve and demand."

Nodler was elected assistant majority floor leader on Thursday, in party caucuses held by senators in the state Capitol following Tuesday's General Election.

Nodler's election makes him the first Republican from southwest Missouri to be elected to a Senate majority leadership position in more than half a century. In 1947, R. Jasper Smith, R-Springfield, was elected to serve as Senate Majority Floor Leader. Since that time, area lawmakers such as Sen. Paul Bradshaw, R-Springfield, Sen. Richard M. Webster, R-Jasper and Sen. Emory Melton, R-Cassville, served with distinction as leaders of the minority caucus; Nodler's election will extend that regional leadership presence to the majority caucus.

"It is of historical note that the solid Republican values sweeping our state grew from a base in southwest Missouri," Nodler said. "Now that those values encompass all of Missouri outside our urban areas, leadership from Southwest Missouri has returned home."

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The new state government that will take office in January is also historic in that it will mark the first time since 1920 that Republicans have held a majority of seats in the Senate and House of Representatives under a Republican administration in the governor's office.

"We have witnessed a tremendous amount of historic change in state government since 2000," Nodler said. "I am enthusiastically optimistic that this historic change will continue to make improvements in government that will meet the high expectations of the citizens of this state."

As assistant majority floor leader, Nodler will be directly involved with determinations of legislation that come before the Senate for debate, the scheduling of debates and the approaches the Senate will use to address the more than 1,500 bills that are introduced each session.

"The citizens have made sweeping changes in our government in an attempt to improve our state and the laws by which we live," Nodler said. "I share their concerns, I share their enthusiasm, and I believe this new leadership position will help us secure the kind of positive change our citizens are expecting from their state government."

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